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No. 99

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 17, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

### CANCELLATION OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC BY WAMU

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, several years ago when I arrived in Washington as a newly elected Congressman and an unabashed bluegrass and country music enthusiast, one of my first non-congressional, self-appointed assignments was to identify the right radio station. WAMU 88.5 was that station.

Ray Davis and Jerry Gray, genial down-home hosts, escorted us through

bluegrass country Monday through Friday. At that time the bluegrass program, as I recall, was aired from noon until 6 p.m. That time slot subsequently was reduced by half running them from 3 until 6 p.m. I did not take umbrage with this change and concluded it was not unreasonable. Six hours is, after all, a formidable block of time and reducing it to 3 hours appeared to be a fair compromise.

The recent heavy-handed action taken by WAMU is neither fair nor a compromise; and as I told a Washington Post reporter recently, as we say in the rural South, I am hopping mad about it.

The powers that be at WAMU have eliminated the Monday through Friday bluegrass that we so much enjoyed with Ray Davis and Jerry Gray. What were 3 hours of bliss have become 3 hours of painful silence; and it appears this silencing exercise was executed abruptly, with precision and with no advanced warning.

Were Ray Davis and Jerry Gray afforded the courtesy of saying good-bye to their host of loyal listeners? Obviously not.

I am told that now in the D.C. listening area we have two giants of public radio both supported by taxpayers, presumably tax exempt, broadcasting identical programs an hour apart and both broadcasting these programs twice to captive drive-time audiences. What became of diversity, the commodity so frequently promoted by public radio?

Many listeners of WAMU have contacted me about this matter and most of these listeners are versatile in their musical tastes. They enjoy bluegrass and country, as do I, but they enjoy the classics as well, as do I. But the WAMU decision-makers have made the former more difficult to receive than the latter. We no longer hear Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys play and sing Paradise or Better Times A Comin'. We

no longer hear Earl Scruggs, ably backed by Lester Flatt and the Foggy Mountain Boys as he plays the Flint Hill Special. During December's yuletide season, the Monday through Friday bluegrass fans will be deprived of Christmas Time A Comin' by Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys or the Country Gentlemen's version of Back Home at Christmas Time.

We, the Monday through Friday group, will have to make adjustments. As a member of Congress, I have consistently contributed to WAMU's various campaigns. I may have to direct my future contributions elsewhere because I do not appreciate the manner in which it appears WAMU terminated the Monday through Friday bluegrass programs.

Ray Davis and Jerry Gray deserve better. WAMU's listeners deserve better. These listeners, by the way, are intensely loyal. So WAMU may be pursuing a volatile course.

Again, Mr. Speaker, drawing from my days in the rural South, when youngsters misbehaved they were taken to the woodshed. You know, perhaps the WAMU management team members need to be introduced to the woodshed. For it is my belief they have misbehaved to the detriment of many innocent observers.

### A BAD OMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the trial of Slobodan Milosevic threatens U.S. sovereignty. The fact that this trial can be carried out, in the name of international justice, should cause all the Americans to cast a wary eye on the whole principal of the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal. The prosecution of Milosevic, a democratically elected and properly

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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